

Remarks

The present amendment is submitted in an earnest effort to advance this case to issue without delay.

1. The priority claim acknowledgment in the PTO-326 form is appreciated.

2. A substitute specification has been provided which includes section headings and the cross reference to related applications required by 37 CFR 1.78. The substitute specification does not contain any new matter and is accompanied by a marked up version showing the changes made.

3. The claims have been amended in a minor respect as to claim 14, to cancel claims 15 to 17 and to add another apparatus claim 18.

4. Pursuant to the requirement for restriction, Applicant's provisionally elect the invention classified in Group II, namely, the apparatus, to which claims 9 to 14 and 18 are drawn.

5. The requirement for restriction is respectfully traversed. Attention is directed to new claim 18 which defines the heating so as to drive off impurities (see method claim 9), requires the formation of carbon oxides (see method claims 1 to 8), requires the vacuum (see claim 2) and even requires spectroscopic analysis (see claim 5). At least with respect to claim 18, therefore, there are mutual unity elements or technical features in common with those of the method claims and thus the method claims should be retained in this case for examination.

Reconsideration of the restriction requirement, its withdrawal and an action on the merits of all of claims 1 to 14 and 18 is requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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Marked up Version